

Urban District Council of Norton-Radstock.Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year
ended 31st December, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Norton-Radstock Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,



I have the honour to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions of your District for the year ended 31st December, 1957.

Section A.

- (1) Area (in acres) 3,360.
 (2) Population 12,320.
 (3) Number of inhabited houses 4,091.
 (4) Rateable Value (31st December, 1957) .. £91,853.
 (5) Sum represented by Penny Rate on
 31st December, 1957 £367
 (6) Chief Industries:-

- (a) Coal Mining.
 (b) Agriculture.
 (c) Paper Bag Making.
 (d) Printing.
 (e) Glove Making.
 (f) Wagon Repairing.
 (g) Timber Constructional Works.
 (h) Boot and Shoe Making.

Unemployment.

The figures at the Midsomer Norton Labour Exchange for those unemployed were, on the average, per month, as follows:-

Men ... 70 Women ... 10.

Prescribed Particulars in the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.Part I of the Act.

Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health
 (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>No. of</u>	
			<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted.</u>
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	46	26	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authorities.	11	20	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authorities (excluding outworkers).	10	36	-	-
Total	67	82	-	-

(2) Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred To By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness	12	12	-	-
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature	0	0	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences:-				
(a) Insufficient.	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	0	0	0	0
Ineffective draining of floors.	0	0	0	0
	13	12	0	0
Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted --- 0				

Vital Statistics.Births.

	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Live Births:			
Legitimate	115	89	204
Illegitimate.	4	4	8
Total ...	119	93	212
Still Births:-			
Legitimate	0	1	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total ...	0	1	1

The birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was:-
17.2.

Deaths.

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
67	44	111

The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was:-
9.0.

Death rate from puerperal causes ...	0.0
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age	
All infants per 1,000 live births ..	23.58
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births ...	23.58
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births .	0.0

Deaths in infants under 1 year of age:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	3	2	5
Under 1 week	4
1 - 4 weeks	0
1 - 6 months	1
6 - 12 months	0

Causes of deaths in infants under 1 year of age:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Congenital Malformation	0	2	2
Birth Injury	2	0	2
Accident	1	0	1

Causes of deaths were:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Heart Disease (i) Coronary	18	8	26
(ii) Other forms	5	7	12
Hypertensive Heart Disease	3	1	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage or Thrombosis	8	6	14
Other Circulatory Disease	1	3	4
Cancer Stomach	3	1	4
Lungs or Bronchus	3	0	3
Uterus	0	1	1
Other sites	7	5	12
Leukaemia	0	1	1
Tuberculosis Respiratory	1	0	1
Influenza	1	0	1
Pneumonia	4	2	6
Bronchitis	2	0	2
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System.	3	0	3
Diabetes Mellitis	0	1	1
Gastro-enteritis	0	1	1
Nephritis	0	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	0	1
Congenital Malformation	0	2	2
Accident	1	1	2
Other ill defined diseases	6	3	9
Total ...	67	44	111

Section B

General provision of Health Services for the area:-

(1) Public Health Officers of the Authority:-

- (a) Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer.
- (b) Surveyor and Water Engineer.
- (c) Temporary Medical Officer of Health (Part-time)

(2) (a) Laboratory Facilities.

Provided by the County Authorities. The nearest laboratory to this area being at Bath.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

Under the Control of the Health Department of the County Council at Taunton. There is a local Ambulance Station. The service is good. A car service is also provided for those requiring transport on medical grounds. A few people will not accept this condition readily.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

The nurses in the area continue to provide an efficient and sympathetic service.

The Home Help Service.

It would appear that the demand on this service still exceeds the supply. It is a service of great value.

Red Cross Depot.

Considerable use is made of the loan department. It is a great asset to the community to have trained medical personnel distributed through it.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

- (1) Tuberculosis. The local clinic run by the County Health Authority is at Radstock. Results obtained in treating this disease are satisfactory. It is considered that more use should be made of immunization.
- (2) Venereal Disease. The Clinics at Bath and Bristol treat cases in this area. Cases of this disease in this area are, fortunately, not frequent.
- (3) Infant and Child Welfare Services. Excellent work is done in inadequate premises.
- (4) Maternity Services. An excellent service continues to be given by the nurses in the home and by Paulton Hospital Maternity Unit. The demand for beds still exceeds the supply. The nurses join several general practitioners to run a combined ante-natal clinic. This is considered to be of great value to everyone concerned.
- (5) Dental Treatment. Local dental practitioners give a good service. The state of the dental hygiene in the community is poor. There should be no dental charges in the Health Service. This is one of the reasons why the average state of dental hygiene remains so deplorably low.
- (6) Mental Treatment. The County Health Authority runs the service. Prejudice against hospitals for the mentally sick fades slowly. Better buildings and better conditions in such hospitals are required.
- (7) No action has been taken under the National Assistance Act, 1948.

(e) Hospital Services.

The District is in the Bath Hospital Area.

Claverton Down Hospital admits cases of infectious diseases.

The Emergency Bed Bureau deals efficiently with the admission of urgent cases.

The shortage of beds for the chronic sick continues. This is aggravated by the refusal of some people to accept any responsibility for the care of elderly relatives once they become infirm.

In some specialities the waiting time for out-patient appointments is still too long.

(f) General Health Services.

The National Health Service should be free at the time of use. The division of the patients into paying and no paying classes leads to abuses and is disliked.

(g) Care of the Blind.

The service for those with defective vision is run by the County Health Authority.

(h) Epileptics and Spastics.

The family doctor treats such cases. The County Health Authority is interested in defective children.

- (i) Much is done to help the aged in this District. There is still scope for further activities.

Section C.

Sanitary Circumstances for the District.

(1) Water.

Sources of supply -

- (i) The Bottlehead Springs at Downhead.
- (ii) Downside and Gurney Slade Springs.
- (iii) Chilcompton Springs.

Mains - Quality.

This has been generally satisfactory. The water has no plumbo-solvent action. For many years it has been noted that after heavy rain the water from the Chilcompton supply has a reddish discolouration. As the soil in this area is red clay, it is suggestive of some contamination with surface water which is always a reason for anxiety. The tests, however, are generally satisfactory. Adjustment was made to the chlorination plant after some unsatisfactory samples were taken from the Chilcompton supply.

Quantity.

During any prolonged spell of dry weather it seems inevitable that the water supply will be inadequate until the supply is increased by drawing on the Chew Valley Reservoir.

Results of samples taken for analysis:-

Raw water				Treated after going into supply.			
Bacteriological		Chemical.		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.
-	-	3	-	37.	8.	-	-

(a) Method of Supply to houses by public supply.

Direct to house.		By means of standpipe.	
No. of dwellinghouses.	Pop.	No. of dwellinghouses.	Pop.
4,031.	11,958.	60	180

During the year no houses were given a piped supply for either well water or other private supply.

The number of houses relying on well water is 4. No wells were closed during the year and none of the well water was sampled.

There were no extensions of or improvements in the water supply during the year.

It is proposed in the future to augment the water supply from the Chew Valley Reservoir, and to lay extension mains within this District to make effective use of this supply.

This plan depends on the laying of mains by the Clutton Rural District Council. As the extra water is so badly needed it is noted with regret that completion of this plan still seems somewhat distant.

(2) Swimming Bath.

The water is by Council supply and is chlorinated and filtered by a Bell Filtration and Chlorination Plant. It is estimated that during the season an average of 194. used the bath daily. The increase may be in some part due to a finer than average summer. The water tests have been satisfactory.

(3) Sanitation.

The District is served by two reasonably modern sewage disposal works.

The whole District is sewered with the exception of the Thicketmead area, which contains 150 houses. For many years septic tanks and cess pools in the area have given cause for frequent complaints. It is hoped that the scheme for sewerage this area will be completed with the utmost expedition. It will link up with a 9" sewer laid by a private company developing the Hayes Park Estate.

Closet accommodation:-

The total number in the District on the 31st December, 1957.

(a) Water Closets	3,881
(b) Chemical Closets	12
(c) Pail Closets	13

There have been no conversions to the water carriage system during the year.

(4) Camping Sites.

There are no licensed camping sites within the district. Three licences have been issued for individual moveable dwellings.

(5) Public Cleansing.

Refuse is removed by direct labour weekly. Two side loading and one rear loading vehicles are used. The entire District is covered.

Trade refuse is collected on request at a reasonable charge. This service is used by several firms.

One quarry tip is used. It is unpleasant to see light refuse, e.g., paper, littering the immediate vicinity. It would be advantageous if rubbish could be incinerated.

Section D.Housing.

There are 4,091 permanent houses in this area, and an increase of 41 on the previous year.

Of these 970 are owned by the local Authority, an increase of 8 on the previous year.

The following action has been taken during the year:-

- (a) 1 house was demolished under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957.
- (b) 11 houses were closed as a result of an undertaking given by the owners on following the issue of Closing Orders.
- (c) Under the Rent Act, 1957 (1st Schedule) 5 Certificates were applied for and 5 were issued.

Building during the year:-

Houses erected during year.			Houses in course of erection.	
	For slum clearance.	For other purposes.	For slum clearance.	For other purposes.
By Local Authority.	8	-	24	-
Private Enterprise.	-	43	-	21
Total.	8	43	24	21

Building since the end of the war:-

No. of Post War Houses erected from 1st. April, 1945 to 31st December, 1957.		Housing Programme for 1958.	
By Local Authority.	By Private Enterprise.	For slum clearance.	For other purposes.
521	241	24	-

Housing Problem.

Twenty nine houses were made fit during the year.

Houses Required.

It is estimated that 180 houses are still required to replace those scheduled for demolition.

The total number of applications for Council houses at the end of the year is 240.

There were no applications for improvement grants under the Housing Acts 1949/54.

Section E.Food(1) Milk

(a) Number of Registered Distributors	5
(b) Number of Registered Dairy Premises (other than Dairy Farms)	5
(c) Number of Licensed Dealers of Designated Milk	4
(d) Number of Supplementary Licenses issued to distributors whose Dairy is outside this area ...	1

(2) Ice-Cream

Number of Premises registered for

(a) Manufacture and retail	5
(b) Manufacture only	2
(c) Retail only	37.

(3) Meat.

Slaughterhouses and Bacon Factories:-

- (a) No slaughterhouse or abattoir is owned or leased by the Local Authority.
- (b) The number of private slaughterhouses licensed in this area is 5 of which 3 are operative.
- (c) There are no slaughterhouses in this area used for the slaughtering of horses.

It is considered that one slaughterhouse or abattoir would adequately serve this area, and that supervision thereby would be greatly simplified.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year:-

	Cattle Ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed.	Est: 199.	Est:47.	-	Est:288.	Est:307.
Number inspected.	Est: 133.	Est:39	-	Est:130	Est:243.
All diseases except tuber- culosis and cysticerci car- cases of which some part or organ was con- demned.	16.	6	-	9	41
Tuberculosis carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.	6.	4	-	-	11
Cysticercosis carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of Meat (in lbs) condemned for					
(a) Tuberculosis	Est: 87.	Est:56	-	-	Est:280
(b) Cysticercosis	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	Est: 150	Est:60	-	Est:120.	Est:71
Total. (lbs.)	Est: 237	Est:116	-	Est:120.	Est:351.

(4) Premises where Food is prepared.

The number of premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 is 31.

These premises were inspected during the year and advice was given where necessary.

Instructional leaflets were issued to all persons engaged in the handling of food.

Radstock Market required particular attention as several very unsatisfactory features were noted there. In consequence extensive alterations and improvements have been carried out.

The owners of premises have generally been co-operative.

(5) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The County Laboratories carry out any investigations requested.

(6) Nutrition

The health and physique of the children is generally satisfactory.

Section F.

Notifiable Diseases.

The following cases of infectious diseases (excluding tuberculosis) were notified during the year:-

Disease.	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths.
Measles.	234	None	None.
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	5	-	-
Pneumonia			
Acute primary	5	-	-
Acute Influenza	1	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	0
Erysipelas	1	-	-

Scarlet Fever fortunately continues to be very mild in type, and so far the cases respond readily to antibiotics.

It is considered that numerous cases of food poisoning occur through hygienic errors in homes but are not notified. No extensive outbreak of any virulence has occurred.

Vaccination.

No vaccinations have been carried out by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations 1907.

The vaccination state of the community is a cause for anxiety.

Vaccination in infancy should be compulsory unless the parents give reasonable ground for exemption.

Numbers vaccinated or revaccinated during the year.

Age Groups.	Under 1 year.	1 year	2-4 years.	5-14 years.	15 years or over.	Total.
Primary Vaccination.	32	6	2	0	4	44
Re-vaccination.	-	-	-	3	2	5

Diphtheria.

No cases were reported during the year.

Immunization.

Age Groups.	Under 1 year	1 to 4 years	5 - 9 years.	Total.
Numbers.	161	20	24	205.

The number of children receiving a re-inforcing immunization during the year was 136.

Scabies.

The occasional case was dealt with by the family doctor. At present this malady presents no problem in this District.

Tuberculosis.

	Total Cases Notified	Total Deaths.
Respiratory	6	1
Non-respiratory	-	-

My thanks once more are due to my colleagues for their large contribution toward this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) A.H. Bulloid, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.